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Start Fresh! New Year, New Looks

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Welcome to the New Year

January is a time when we traditionally challenge ourselves with new things;

that's why I find myself so thrilled to be here behind the editor's desk at *Romantic Homes* as we plunge into 2016.

I am a longtime romantic. When I finally got the chance to decorate my own bedroom as a young teen, I chose lavender walls and a ruffled cream comforter sprinkled with tiny purple flowers. It would be a while before words like "chintz," "chippy" and "tufting" entered my vocabulary, but the pattern was set. I like to surround myself with pretty things, and now I get to spend my days sharing pretty things with you, our readers. What better way to start off the year?

Change can be a little frightening, of course, but it's also very exciting. Anyone who's ever undertaken a redecorating project or refinished a piece of furniture knows the anticipation of wondering, "Will it turn out as fabulous as I imagined?" The secret to getting it right is to trust your vision and never give up until you've gotten it just right. I hope

you'll trust in me to keep at it until every issue of *Romantic Homes* is nothing less than perfect.

As we shake off the glitter and tinsel of the holiday season, it's a great time to take a look at our homes and see how we might freshen up our décor. White sales are a January staple, so maybe new bed linens or towels are in order. Rearrange the furniture, experiment with a few new accessories or maybe try a whole new color palette to break out of the winter doldrums and create the haven of your dreams. You'll find these ideas and more in the pages of this issue.

You'll find even more inspiration and beautiful things if you join *Romantic Homes* online at Facebook and Instagram, or you can reach out to me on Twitter at @always_rh. We're always happy to connect with our readers.

Until next month, here's wishing you a new year full of bounty and beauty!

Always,

Staci Dumski, Editor

EDITORIAL

Editorial Director: Jackie Torres

Editor: Staci Dumski

Associate Editor: Devlin Smith

Managing Editor: Anne Brink

Staff Photographer: Henry Z. De Kuyper

Editorial Interns: Melissa Anderson, Maria Baruxis, Lindsey Steffes

DESIGN

Senior Art Director: Elena Oh

Art Director: Marisela Avalos

Design Director: Gabby Oh, Eric Knagg

CONTRIBUTORS

Ayda Algin, Ton Bouwer, Janet Coon, Wilma Custers, Anita Diaz, Anneke Gambon, Melinda Graham, Shayna Orrino, Elise Portale, Diane Sedo, Mark Tanner, Troy Thies, Gay Van Beek, Monique van der Pauw

ADVERTISING

Terry Rollman - Publisher, trollman@engagedmediainc.com

Gabe Frimmel - Ad Sales Director - gfrimmel@engagedmediainc.com • (714) 200-1930

Donna Silva Norris - Senior Account Executive • (714) 200-1933

Becky Maas - Advertising Rep • (714) 200-1959

John Cabral - Advertising Design

Gennifer Merriday - Advertising Traffic Coordinator

Eric Gomez - Advertising Traffic Coordinator

DIRECT MARKETING GROUP

John Bartulin - (866) 866-5146 ext. 2746

OPERATIONS

Subroto Mallick: Business Analytics Manager

Robert Short: IT Manager

Harsh Srivastava: Newsstand and Circulation Analyst

Shailesh Khandelwal: Subscriptions Manager

Alex Mendoza: Administrative Assistant

Jeno Torres: Administrative Assistant

Victoria Van Vlear: Intern Program Manager

Arvind Sidhu: Prepress Manager

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway #200, Yorba Linda, CA 92887

(714) 939-9991, Fax (800) 249-7761

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Yours Truly

ARTFUL KEEPSAKE

AFTER BEING INSPIRED BY YOUR “MAKE-IT-YOURSELF” memory wreath instructions in the November 2014 issue of *Romantic Homes* [“Simply,” pictured below left], I began gathering various vintage Christmas decorations and other family heirlooms to make my own [pictured at right]. These include cherished items saved by my mother during my childhood, such as my first mittens, an angel ornament I made as a Camp Fire Girl in the 1950s and a green felt boot edged with gold sequins sewn when I was learning to sew at age 7. A few ornaments from my grandparents’ tree, as well as a few from our tree from my childhood, remind me of the magic of those long-ago Christmases.

Creative Christmas gift wrapping was always a fun activity for our family, and we passed our most prized gift decorations around to each other year after year. There are a few of these on the wreath, such as the Christmas fairy, a white glittery bird and white crepe paper bells.

Also on my keepsake wreath are special gifts given to me by family members. These include two handmade Mother’s Day gifts from my two now-grown sons when they were in elementary school and in Boy Scouts, an antique china mug that my grandmother gave me and a tiny ceramic girl figurine given to me by my sister.

Nestled throughout the wreath are pearl garlands, old buttons strung together in circles, white poinsettias, roses, a wooden spool of thread, flowered ribbon bows and a lace scarf I wore in the 1980s. Among these is a petite porcelain bowl that I found at an antique china shop many years ago.

My memory wreath’s placement on the wall in my entryway made the perfect addition to our Christmas décor last year. However, when I took down my other decorations at the end of the season, I just wanted to enjoy it longer. It has been in its place all year, reminding me daily of special times throughout my life.

I wonder how many other readers of your wonderful magazine were likewise inspired? Maybe mine will encourage someone to make their own wreath this year.

Thank you for every issue, which I save to read again and again.

Yours,
BECKY PICKLE
VIA EMAIL

Romantic Homes loves to hear from you. Please write and tell us how we’ve inspired you or what you’ve done to decorate your home using our ideas. We are also happy to answer any questions you may have. *Romantic Homes* reserves the right to edit all letters. Send letters or queries to *Romantic Homes*, Engaged Media Inc., 22840 Savi Ranch Pkwy., Suite 200, Yorba Linda, CA 92887; devlinsmith@engagedmediainc.com or romantichomes.com.



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Small changes can make a big difference in your home. Here are some great products that will help freshen up your space for the new year.

By Staci Dumoski



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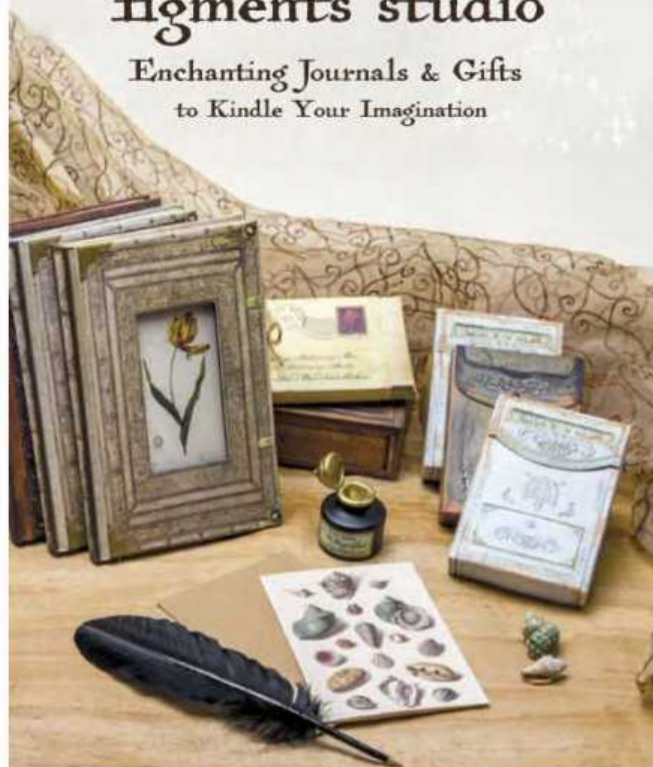


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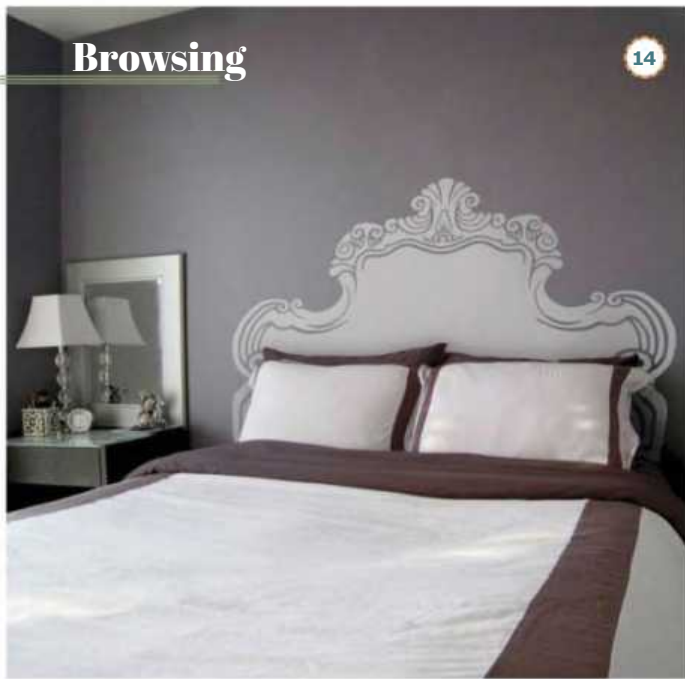
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Everything Old Is New Again

My mother was one of those lovely ladies who always had a floral hankie handy.



These delightful pieces also caught my fancy, and I began buying them for her in the antiques shops I visited. At her homegoing to be with the Lord, I was compelled to gather up her collection of hankies to take home. Why, I had no idea. While traveling home from my last visit with her, I was leafing through a home-decorating magazine and was inspired by a bed quilt of lovely

appliquéd bouquets separated by sashing. At that moment I knew how I would use Mom's hankies. This was the beginning of my quilt-making adventure, which continues to this day.

I've continued to collect vintage linens and hankies, yet now with a new focus. Creating lovely quilts and throw pillows that showcase these time-honored treasures brings such joy to my heart and peace to my spirit.

For me, these time-honored treasures invoke a sense of peace and joy and a remembrance of simpler times. As I've shared my quilts with guilds and at shows, the women stop to look and remember. They tell me, "Your booth is such a peaceful place," or "I have drawers of these vintage linens from my mother (or grandmother)—what a wonderful way to use them." I answer, "Yes, I love getting them out of the drawer and on display for everyone to enjoy."

I call the inner border of the Heirloom Treasures quilt my "crazy-quilt" technique. Some of the best items for use in this border are embroidered or crocheted pillowcases, embroidered dresser scarves and table toppers; even tea towels and hankies work wonderfully in this eclectic tech-

nique. When sewing with these lovely pieces, I always use a lightweight cotton foundation behind them, then baste them in place by stitching around the outer edge. This can be done by hand or machine, depending on how delicate the piece is. The machine quilting will keep them secure. Don't worry if there is a stain or a tear; these can be covered by an adjacent piece as you overlap them to create the crazy-quilt look. Items with crocheted or tatted edgings are best as they cover other raw edges and leave no raw edges themselves. If stains are an issue, there are many wonderful products on the market to remove them and brighten your treasures. I've used Restoration, Vintage Textile Soak and Retro Clean for this process, and all work very well.

DEANNA HODSON
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VIA EMAIL



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SWEET ESCAPE

Transform your bathroom into a serene spa retreat with a few flea-market finds and white-sale deals.

By Devlin Smith • Photography by Mark Tanner

Creating the relaxing, spa-like bathroom of your dreams

doesn't require a major remodel costing thousands of dollars. Instead, taking inspiration from this serene space, you can use a selection of flea-market finds and white-sale steals to create your own relaxing retreat.

The major pieces in this bathroom—the stool, shelf and chandelier—can all be sourced at flea markets, thrift stores and garage sales. You can update the paint and upholstery of the shelf and seating to match your style and décor.

Vintage chandeliers, from elegant to whimsical, are plentiful at flea markets but may require more than simple cosmetic updates. Enlist the help of an electrician to ensure your chandelier is properly wired and safely installed, particularly if you opt to hang it over the bathtub.

Take advantage of the white sales for the essentials—fluffy bathmats, towels

and wash cloths are a bargain in January. These homeowners opted to stock their open shelves with white towels, which gives the bathroom a clean, classic look. Coordinate your towels with your décor or use the shade of that newly purchased set of towels as the jumping-off point for your bathroom refresh.

These homeowners followed a beachy theme when selecting accessories for their bathroom. Whatever your theme, you can find accessories like vases, mirrors, perfume bottles and candlesticks at flea markets to uniquely and inexpensively spice up the space.

Get the finishing touches like essential oils, bath bombs and candles at drug-stores or bath and beauty stores to complete this spa transformation. Then draw yourself a warm bath and enjoy your newly refreshed private retreat.

[Y]OU CAN USE A
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WHITE-SALE STEALS TO
CREATE YOUR OWN
RELAXING RETREAT.





Dream Bed

Uncover the secrets to putting together a perfectly romantic bed.

By Staci Dumoski
Photography by Henry Z. De Kuyper
Styling by Amanda Heer

A BED IS MORE THAN JUST A COZY COCOON WHERE YOU CURL UP TO SLEEP.

It's also the centerpiece of a room's décor, so it's important that it's just as pleasing to the eye as it is to all the other senses. We spoke with Susan Ellison of Blue Springs Home, a bedding shop in Costa Mesa, California, to learn how to put together a bed that is both beautiful and comfortable.

BETWEEN THE SHEETS

First and foremost, decide what you need to sleep comfortably at night. Some people prefer the laissez-faire ease of a simple fitted sheet and duvet combination. Others like beds that are tucked tight, with plenty of top layers to keep them warm at night.

Linen sheets are a popular alternative for many people. "People who have never slept with linen are surprised at how soft and cool and comforting it is, and it is just as easy to care for as cotton," Susan says. While it does wrinkle more easily, linen creates a wonderful, carefree look that is very relaxing.

When it comes to cotton sheets, conventional wisdom says that the higher the thread count, the smoother and softer the sheets will be. Susan advises, however, there's more to it than that. What really matters is what kind of cotton it is, where it was grown and how it was processed.

CARING FOR FINE LINENS

When properly cared for, fine linens are a worthwhile investment that will last for years.

Materials like cotton, linen and even some velvets are machine washable at home, making upkeep a breeze. Susan Ellison of Blue Springs

Home offers these tips for keeping your bedding in good shape.

Wash sheets and pillowcases at least once a week. Other items only need washing when they start to look dirty. If you don't use a top sheet with your duvet, it will need to be washed weekly as well.

Rotate bed sheets weekly to increase their longevity.

To keep linen from wrinkling, take it out of the dryer right away, fold and smooth the wrinkles out with your hands. Ironing is only necessary if you like a very crisp look.

Dry cleaning can dull the luster of some fabrics. Only dry clean fine linens if instructed to by the care label.

Even with regular laundering, fine linens from brands like Bella Notte, SDH and Matteo will last for years, thanks to the high quality of the fabrics and dyes.

For more on Susan Ellison, visit bluespringshome.com.

LAVENDER SLUMBERS

Create a spray to add a calming scent to your winter linens.

By Devlin Smith

Your bedroom is meant to be a place to relax and unwind. A warm, cozy bed is just one element of your ideal oasis. Certain scents, like lavender, can help make your room soothing and serene.

"Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) is considered the most calming herb," says Alexandra Haley, a family herbalist and detox specialist who owns the Claremont Healing House in Claremont, California. "It's commonly used for conditions of nervousness, insomnia, anxiety, and quieting the mind and body."

You can create a spray using lavender essential oil to add a calming scent to your pillows and linens.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Funnel
- Spray bottle (I used a 2-ounce blue glass bottle)
- Distilled water
- Witch hazel
- Lavender essential oil

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

1. Use the funnel to fill the spray bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ full with distilled water.
2. Use the funnel to add witch hazel to fill the bottle to just below the neck.
3. Add 10 drops of lavender essential oil.
4. Screw on the top; then shake to mix the ingredients.
5. Lightly spray on your linens.

Note: This made a lavender linen spray with a light, lingering scent. For a stronger scent, add the witch hazel to the bottle first, followed by the essential oil and the distilled water.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

"Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) is considered the most calming herb."
—Alexandra Haley



"We try to buy organically grown cotton and linen," she says. "All the companies we buy from are very conscientious about this. You'll pay a little bit more for a product that is made this way, but if you start thinking about the environment, it's worth it to pay a little more for products with high quality."

LAYER FOR LUXURY

Once you've decided on sheets, it's time to start topping the sheets with a combination of duvets, coverlets, pillows and shams.

The key to creating a dreamy, romantic bed is to pile up layers of soft textures and colors. Choose pieces that are pleasing to the eye, but also delightful to the touch.

A gauzy bed skirt that trails onto the ground creates a

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A gauzy bed skirt that trails onto the ground creates a dreamlike foundation for your bed. One or more duvets stuffed with down fillers form a plush surface that invites you to sink into it. For warmer weather, or a more streamlined look, use coverlets or combine a coverlet and duvet.

Is there such a thing as too many pillows? Probably not! Choose a variety of sizes, from the large headboard pillows in the back to stacks of king and standard pillows covered in shams of velvet and lace.

Removable shams allow you to mix things up from season to season, making sure your bedroom stays fresh and interesting. A vintage embroidered cushion and a ruffled throw draped casually across the foot of the bed are like icing on the cake.

"There is no right way or wrong way to make a bed," Susan says. While once having a matched bed set was the standard, today's style is more casual, with an emphasis on reflecting your personality and style. "Match the bed to your lifestyle, she says. "If no one [else] uses the bedroom, you can do whatever you want, but with kids and dogs around, you need something that can withstand all that."

"There is no right way or wrong way to make a bed."

—Susan Ellison

BRET GUM

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Essentials



FAUX FUR IS BOTH WARM and luxurious, and can be found inexpensively at most home accessories stores.

Winter Warm-Up

Get cozy with these tips for using throw blankets in your home.

Written, photographed and styled
by Janet Coon



WHEN THE TEMPERATURES DIP AND YOU CRAVE THE SNUGGLY FEELING OF CUDDLING UP WHILE

relaxing at home, a throw blanket is the perfect way to stay warm and cozy. A throw is not only functional; it can also be a quick and inexpensive way to add style and color to your room. Throws come in a wide variety of textures, patterns and colors, and are a simple way to change out your room after holiday decorations are taken down.

Tossed at the foot of the bed or on a bench, a chunky cable-knit throw adds texture to the room and can be grabbed for a quick nap when you don't feel like getting under the covers for a long snooze.

A throw tossed casually across the cushions on a sofa or chair adds not only warmth but also a casual, relaxed feel and is easy to grab when you need some extra warmth. Place a large basket next to the living room sofa full of folded throws for guests to use when watching a game on TV or warming up by the fire.

A CABLE-KNIT THROW draped casually near the bed adds warmth and texture to the room and is perfect for cozy afternoon naps.

Essentials



Throws come in all prices as well as patterns and sizes. When choosing a color or pattern, consider where you plan to use your throw. To maintain a monochromatic look, choose a throw for its texture and feel. Popular choices are faux fur, cable knit, chenille and faux sheepskin.

To add color to a neutral sofa or chair, look for a throw that is complementary to the accent colors already in your room's accessories or wall paint. Don't be afraid to mix and match patterns, but pay attention to scale and color to avoid something that looks out of place. Finally, choose a washable throw, as you will want to clean your blanket often.

[LEFT] TOSS BLANKETS CASUALLY across the cushions to create a comfortable, welcoming feeling. If they're too neat, people may be reluctant to use them.

[BELOW] A NEUTRAL ROOM IS GIVEN A SPLASH OF COLOR to brighten up a chilly winter day. Look for throws in colors that are already present in the room's décor.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.



For more on Janet,
visit shabbyfufu.com.



WHEN GOING WHITE ON WHITE,
use a throw with a distinct texture
that will make it stand out in the
room, like the soft ruffles shown here.



BABY, *it's Cold Outside*

Discover warm cottage style in a romantic farmhouse in Colorado.

By Gay Van Beek

Photography and styling by Shayna Orrino

A cres of farmland blanketed in snow

adorn Shayna and Anthony Orrino's working farm. Step inside their home and you are transported into a gorgeously inviting, warm winter cottage imbued with decorator touches and DIY-inspired style.

Shayna freely admits that it took a few iterations before she found her style. Each room is lovingly infused with warm wood touches, and she brings the outside in during the cold winter months by using fresh fruit, floral bouquets and touches of green throughout her home. Her favorite thing about a room is texture. "Each item brings in a different surface element," Shayna says. "Without it, rooms can feel flat and boring." She complements the wood tones by adding strategically placed touches of soft black and a few of her homemade pillows.

Shayna loves mixing old and new by incorporating classic, newer upholstered pieces with antiques that she finds at local thrift stores and flea markets. She also has a love for, and is quite gifted at, repurposing older pieces to use in her home. Her DIY projects are expertly done—she has written

HOMEOWNER SHAYNA ORRINO enjoys decorating her home with natural items like wood, sprigs and flowers.





*"White is a great,
clean color that allows
each item to shine,*

**ALL WHILE
PROVIDING
THE PERFECT
BACKDROP."**





[ABOVE] OPEN SHELVING ALLOWS Shayna to show off her collections and gives her more space to decorate throughout the year.

[RIGHT] SHAYNA AND ANTHONY created this blackboard for their kitchen. The project is featured on Shayna's blog.

Tips

Use jute rugs in every room in your home; they provide texture and are resilient to foot traffic.

White paint acts as a neutral and does not conflict with other colors.

Every room needs a touch of black. It brings in balance.



For more on Gay, visit
canterburycottagedesigns.blogspot.com.

tutorials on her blog on how readers can achieve her look in their own homes.

Her house is grounded by painting all of the walls white. "I think white walls are utterly amazing but very under-appreciated," Shayna says. "White is a great, clean color that allows each item to shine, all while providing the perfect backdrop." White walls also let her change her home's décor seamlessly with each season. Her favorite whites are White Dove and Super White by Benjamin Moore. "White Dove is a creamy white, while Super White is a very bright, clean white," she says.

Shayna's love of family and design has helped her create a romantic, modern, yet comfortable sanctuary. "Decorating should be something you want to do, rather than something you have to do," she says.





SHAYNA WILL BE OPENING her online gift shop later this year.

Details



"You shouldn't feel constrained by decorating rules or worried if other people like your home. The feeling you bring to your home is unique to you: if you project your love for your home, it will be noticeable to those who visit."

Shayna shares her love for home design and décor on her blog, The Wood Grain Cottage (thewoodgraincottage.com). She will open an online shop later this year full of handmade items, including pillows she has designed herself and her e-book that highlights how you can find your own style within your home.





[ABOVE] THE DINING ROOM FEATURES a wall of custom open shelving.

[BELOW LEFT] USING FARMHOUSE TEXTURES like walls clad in shiplap alongside modern pulls on the laundry-room cabinets is part of what makes up Shayna's unique style.







Treasure BOX

A homeowner shares her secrets for creating a beautiful home that artfully blends family heirlooms with carefully collected treasures.

Written, photographed and styled by Anita Diaz

TRENDS COME AND GO, BUT THE ART OF PUTTING TOGETHER A COLLECTED HOME WILL ALWAYS BE IN STYLE AND A UNIQUE EXPRESSION OF YOU.

Creating that look in your home is easier than it might seem. It does, however, take time, patience and a little work, but it doesn't take a lot of money. I found budget limitations actually made me more creative, and I realized the unique things I needed to make my home special were easily accessible—requiring only a little elbow grease.

FIND A STARTING POINT

I began with inherited furniture, art and accessories, then added thrift-store finds, DIY projects and items I found online. The key was to tie all those elements and styles together in a purposeful way, which resulted in a unique look that allowed my home to tell its own story.

DIY DROP-CLOTH DRAPES hung at the ceiling make the room appear taller and soften the space.

GET THE look

- For pops of color, make vintage silk saris into table runners, pillow shams and sink skirts. This not only adds color but also a touch of Bohemian chic flair, which keeps vintage and antique pieces from looking stuffy or old.
- Add some sparkle to every room with brass, silver and crystal accents. Explore thrift stores for vintage candlesticks, platters or decanters at a fraction of the cost of new.
- Go global with accessories from different countries. Get that well-traveled look, and a good deal, by searching eBay for reputable dealers of antique Persian rugs, Chinese silk fabric or Japanese porcelain.

[OPPOSITE] A THRIFT-STORE FRENCH SOFA and craigslist French chair are right at home with the inherited antique chaise lounge and chair.

[BELOW] A MODERN FLORAL-PRINT PILLOW mixed with vintage Chinese silk pillows brings all the colors in the room together.



“The key was to tie all those elements and styles together in a purposeful way.

WHICH RESULTED IN A
UNIQUE LOOK THAT
ALLOWED MY HOME TO
TELL ITS OWN STORY.”







A VINTAGE SILK SARI and over-dyed rug add color to the otherwise neutral room.



As a backdrop for my collections, I used neutral shades of light gray throughout most of the house, which not only allowed my inherited pieces to stand out, but also gave me a plethora of options in choosing colorful accessories and the freedom to decorate seasonally.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES

Most of my family pieces came to me in beautifully preserved condition, but my favorites were the ones needing life breathed back into them. I painstakingly restored the rusty iron bed frame, found in an old building on my parents' property, into a beautiful antique bed full of unique, vintage personality. Not one to let anything go to waste, I repurposed an old door into a mantel for the master bedroom by trimming it out with scraps of wood and then painting it white.

Instead of going for marble or granite countertops in our kitchen, we opted to build wormy chestnut countertops from wood ripped off an old building. I



Designer Tips

Layer area rugs for an eclectic look and to disguise a too-small rug.

A grocery store potted plant in a decorative planter makes a great accessory any time of year and is a long-lasting alternative to cut flowers.

Arrange furniture on the diagonal to make a small space appear larger. Old windows and empty picture frames make great wall accents, while also bringing texture and depth to a room.

Lined wire baskets are great for corralling dish towels and paper towels while keeping valuable counter space clear.



balanced the vintage farmhouse look of the wood counters with a modern, zero-radius stainless steel sink, then took the farmhouse look even further by adding a trim piece of old wood to the front of the cabinetry to give the appearance of an apron-front sink.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The process of putting my home together has been a labor of love filled with lots of trial and error. I enjoy mixing the unexpected—an antique floor lamp with a Midcentury Modern fiberglass lampshade or a funky, hot-pink, over-dyed rug with a vintage French-style couch. Although it can be scary to mix and

“Although it can be scary to mix and match things

THAT SEEM TO BE OPPOSITES, I HAVE FOUND THAT TAKING A RISK AND TRYING THE UNEXPECTED ... ALWAYS PAYS OFF.”

[OPPOSITE] A TABLE HANDMADE FROM ANTIQUE WORMY CHESTNUT sits on a custom iron base. Duncan Phyfe chairs are slipcovered to add softness to the room and a burlap-upholstered bench provides seating without obstructing the view. A fabric curtain in the doorway provides balance and softness.





[UPPER LEFT] A MIXTURE OF BLUE AND WHITE PORCELAIN, along with brass and hot-pink linens, brings color and brightens up the neutral space. • [LOWER RIGHT] OPEN SHELVING provides space to keep everyday items within reach. • [LOWER LEFT] AN OLD SCREEN DOOR was repurposed with burlap and hardware cloth to close off the laundry/utility room.



MISMATCHED CABINETS GIVE THE KITCHEN VINTAGE FLAIR, while accessories including the bright printed towel and a floral runner add a touch of Bohemian chic.

THE NEUTRAL GRAYS AND WHITES are accented with punches of lime green and aubergine, which can easily be changed seasonally.





[ABOVE] PAINTING DIRECTLY on an old Masonite print and adding hand-made origami cranes creates original art, while an antique washstand gets a modern look with a coat of silver spray paint and glass knobs.

- [UPPER RIGHT] A MİRRORED TABLE RUNNER is the perfect touch for a desk/makeup station and protects the painted surface.
- [LOWER RIGHT] INHERITED AND THRIFTED FURNITURE is given new life with paint in shades of gray and white.

For more on Anita, visit
anitafaraboverubies.com.



A RESTORED ANTIQUE IRON BED is the focal point of the room, which includes an antique trunk, handmade mahogany side table and drop-leaf table from the original house on the property.



[LEFT] A DIY MANTEL made from an old door is the perfect place to add more color to the white room.



match things that seem to be opposites, I have found that taking a risk and trying the unexpected, like turning a large sofa on the diagonal, always pays off.

But the most important thing has been including items that mean something to me—like old books with my grandfather’s notes inside, original paintings from family members long gone or porcelain rice bowls from a trip to Japan.

Ultimately, I want my home to be a reflection of my family and our experiences. Collecting the unique and repurposing the cast-offs has made that dream a reality.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

[LEFT] WHITE LINENS ARE ACCENTED WITH VINTAGE SILK SARIS and a modern-patterned quilt, while vintage Chinese silk adds pops of hot pink and a touch of Bohemian flair.





AS SOON AS YOU ENTER WRITER AND INTERIOR DESIGNER ELLEN RONDE'S HOME

in the West-Friesland province of the Netherlands, you realize that she has one very special passion: flea-market finds. What you encounter all throughout the home are antiques and vintage finds with a touch of romance.

"The style of your interior is the reflection of your soul," Ellen says. "I create my own dream world, my own paradise in which I feel happy. ... It's a blend of romance, shabby and a touch of bohemian. This is the way I am and what I feel good with."

She adores visiting flea markets, never quite sure what she will encounter to take home.

"I [might] become totally happy with a little bench which has a totally worn look," she says.

Though Ellen loves filling her home with antique and vintage pieces, online shopping is not for her. "I need to touch [the pieces], I need to see items, smell them and passionately fall in love with something, often without a reason or without knowing what to do with it back at home," she says.

Ellen's finds are far from perfect; she sees beauty in decay. "A religious object with traces from the past can be so pretty; it's the imperfection that does it all," she says. "It's the still life of these objects that appeals so much to me, just like furniture with a worn look, holding a story of where they were once used."

LOVE *Affair*

With her passion for soft tones, fine collections of nostalgic treasures and other sweet memories of the past, this homeowner and interior designer knows how to perfectly use each item from her trove of flea-market treasures with the greatest devotion.

By Wilma Custers
Photography by Anneke Gambon
Styling by Ellen Ronde
Produced by Features & More

THE INTERIORS IN ELLEN'S HOME
reveal her passion for flea-market finds.

Even though she prefers the authentic look of her finds, when it comes to vintage furniture, Ellen sometimes decides to change the color. “[Regardless], it should at least be an antique piece of furniture; you will never encounter a new piece in my home,” she says.

Ellen also has a weakness for natural materials like weathered wood, cotton and linen. “The charm of linen is exactly what I like so much about it, like the effect worn furniture has on me,” she says. “I like the gray and white tones best.”

tip:

USE COAT RACKS AND HOOKS TO DISPLAY SPECIAL ITEMS FROM YOUR COLLECTION.







EXPERT ADVICE

Ellen Ronde recently launched an interior design business where her goal is to help clients express themselves through their home décor, as she's done in her own home.

"I am driven by my passion for creating a pure experience for homeowners and making sure that their home becomes the expression of their personality and ideas," she says. "Making others happy, that's what motivates me. And when clients continue developing their new style, I believe my mission is complete."

She shares a few key design principles she practices in her work.

"Style is not a matter of adding large quantities of accessories to your interior, but about the way you blend them together; it's about putting the right items together and creating the perfect unity," she says. "I learned a lot about design, the use of colors and composition during my [studies]. I gratefully put this knowledge into practice, but the basis of my work is my intuition."

She often finds treasures on her holidays in France. The pieces that will catch her eye have changed throughout the years. She once liked white so much, but now favors pastel tones. "An interior with a personal touch needs time to evolve," Ellen says. "It took me years to bring all my collections together."

Though she is passionate about finding new pieces and adding them to her home, Ellen is not a collector; instead she uses vintage and antique objects to create a certain style.

"One can easily make a large statement by using old windows and shutters," she offers as an example. "With such elements you can even obtain a shabby style in a new house. Just look at my own place—vintage shutters can be seen everywhere."





[OPPOSITE AND ABOVE] ONE OF HOMEOWNER ELLEN'S TIPS for adding vintage charm to any home is to decorate with shutters. She uses these chippy salvage pieces in a variety of decorative and functional ways throughout her home.

[BELOW] ELLEN USES RELIGIOUS PIECES throughout her home, drawn to them by their vintage charm.



[ABOVE] WHETHER THEY'RE ITEMS from your personal collection or pieces found at flea markets, vintage toys add sweet charm to a room.

tip:

COLLECTIONS OF VINTAGE FABRIC, LINENS AND LACE ADD SPECIAL DECORATIVE FLAIR TO TABLETOPS, SHELVES AND BASKETS.





[ABOVE AND OPPOSITE] BALLET SLIPPERS, TUTUS AND FLORAL CROWNS bring a classically feminine feel and a touch of drama to the shabby vintage rooms.



tip:

VINTAGE AND ANTIQUE BUTTONS ARE HIGHLY COLLECTABLE AND GREAT TO DISPLAY AROUND YOUR HOME IN JARS, TEACUPS, SMALL DRAWERS OR, IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SCORE THEM, ON THEIR CARDS.







LOVELY ACCENTS

Style can be expressed in your home not only through large-scale pieces like furniture and painted walls, but also through the small pieces you use as accents throughout. Homeowner Ellen packs extra character into each of her rooms by decorating tabletops, shelves and coat racks with a variety of accessories and one-of-a-kind flea-market finds. You can add that extra touch to your rooms with small vintage items like these:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Cards and letters
- Perfume bottles
- Jewelry
- Lace and trim
- Purses
- Hats
- Shoes







For more on Ellen, visit her website at
eighenwijs.nl
and her blog at
vlindersweblog.blogspot.nl.



True Blue

An all-white interior provides an ideal backdrop for this couple's primary-color crafts, finds and treasures.

By Monique van der Pauw

Photography by Ton Bouwer

Styling by Willy Stoops and Monique van der Pauw

Produced by Features & More



EVERY YEAR DUTCH COUPLE
WILLY AND NIEK STOOPS

spend their summer in the Morvan, an old, lush, wooded national park in France's Burgundy region. It was in the late 1980s that the couple found this second home in a small, lively village. Built in the 1960s, the house didn't really have much charm of its own. But it was in good shape, the size was right, it was within walking distance of the village center and—last but not least—there was space enough with the potential to make a very nice garden.

WHITE & BRIGHT

Although the house did not qualify as very modern or ultra-comfortable, Willy and Niek didn't go for an extensive renovation after purchasing the home but instead opted to make cosmetic updates.

"We're not looking for luxury; we don't need a fancy kitchen with all kinds of machinery, expensive furniture or a high-end bathroom," Willy says. "As long as our house is nice, warm and cozy, we're happy."

Their summerhouse is indeed all that, but getting there took some effort. "When we bought it, it was dark and dreary with ugly stone walls, ugly carpet everywhere and everything painted in dark colors," Willy says.

[OPPOSITE] AN OLD CABINET WAS GIVEN A SECOND LIFE by painting it blue. It houses Willy's collections of porcelain, enamelware and fine glassware.

[THIS PAGE] AN OLD WOODEN TOWEL RACK is used to showcase beautiful textiles in white and blue. The quilt was made by Willy; the other textiles were found at flea markets.

By installing French doors opening up to the terrace at the back of the house, the couple welcomed the abundant daylight that now flows through the living room. Carpet was replaced by travertine floors downstairs and soft new carpet upstairs, and nearly every inch was painted white, including the woodwork, beams and the bold stone walls.

Willy did this paint job, which took hundreds of gallons of paint, while Niek tackled carpentry, electricity and many other jobs and chores big and small. They transformed dreariness into brightness, a perfect base from which they could create a cozy house with blue and red accents.

FLEA-MARKET FINDS

For as long as she can remember, Willy has been fond of old things and antiques. Strolling around flea markets is one of her favorite things to do, so with a summerhouse to furnish and decorate, visiting the famous French flea markets was a huge pleasure for Willy and Niek.

"Thirty years ago you could find the most beautiful things for very nice prices," she says. "That has changed now, but we still like to go to the flea markets and still come home with a little [of] this or that."

Over the years Willy has taken home chairs, tables and stools, glass and silverware, old French plates, saucers and bowls, beautiful textiles, lace and embroidery. It has all found its way into the summerhouse, mixed and matched with antiques that she brought with her from the Netherlands.

THERE'S EASY LIVING IN THE LIVING ROOM. A comfortable sofa and two armchairs stand ready for nestling warm and cozy around the wood stove. The red-and-white-checked armchair is a bright accent in this neutral group of furniture, and the same goes for the touches of blue. All cushions were made by Willy.





“AS LONG AS OUR HOUSE IS
NICE, WARM AND COZY,
we're happy.”



[TOP LEFT] A FABRIC HEART adds a little extra decoration to the white painted candleholder.

[ABOVE] WILLY'S TALENT FOR STYLING shows in this old wall cabinet, where she combined a part of her beloved Dutch enamelware collection with a few beautiful pieces of porcelain, an old tile and a silver cruet.

[BOTTOM LEFT] A COLLECTION OF CARAFES is displayed on a tray like a still life, while a cake stand brings together some smaller findings, crowned by a crystal glass bell that matches the carafe collection perfectly.

[OPPOSITE] AN OLD KITCHEN TABLE, dining chair and rattan arm-chair are all painted white and set near the window overlooking the front garden for writing, reading or just relaxing. Willy made the romantic cushions herself. Behind the rattan chair is an old type case filled with small objects.







[ABOVE] THE SHAPE AND COLOR OF THIS ANTIQUE MUSIC STAND add some sturdiness to the otherwise very feminine décor. The original stone wall was painted white. The white-painted cabinet houses Willy's extensive collection of white-and-blue porcelain crockery. She decorated the shelves with lace in different designs. [OPPOSITE] THE KITCHEN IS SMALL BUT COZY, again thanks to Willy's great sense of styling. Behind the table is a collection of old porcelain and enamel kitchen jars found at Dutch and French flea markets. The jugs are new but have a traditional Dutch pattern that also can be seen in the dishcloth. The lamp was painted white.



[ABOVE] THE TABLE IS SET FOR A QUICK SNACK. The flowered French plates are on top of a dishcloth with a traditional Dutch pattern used for kitchenware and textiles.

RED, WHITE & BLUE

Except for a few rattan chairs, Willy painted the furniture and even accessories like lamps, candles and wall cabinets white. Here and there natural old wood warms the white color scheme, while splashes of red and blue sparkle throughout the house in paint, textiles and Willy's collections of crockery and enamelware.

Willy loves to paint but is also passionate about needlework. She installed her sewing machine and a cabinet full of blue-and-white-striped, flowered and checked fabrics in the attic, and made curtains and cushions for the house, as well as beautiful quilts and embroidery that bring extra charm and color to every room.



[ABOVE] NEXT TO THE WHITE-PAINTED STAIRS is a small gallery with cards, paintings and maps. The tapestry was made by Willy.

[RIGHT] A FINE COLLECTION OF METAL POTS and an old milk can, brought together with traditional checked Dutch dishtowels and an old wooden spoon, sits on a rack made by Niek.



LITTLE PARADISE

The attic is one of Willy's favorite spots in the house, but she also enjoys the sofa near the wood stove, a perfect place for reading home décor magazines. When the weather is fine, she can be found outside. Over the years Willy and Niek have turned the neglected grounds into a wonderful garden full of flowers, fruit trees and lush bushes. After pruning and picking, the couple relaxes on the wooden terrace, enjoying a glass of wine while overlooking their little paradise.



“WE STILL LIKE TO
GO TO THE FLEA
MARKETS AND STILL
COME HOME

*with a little [of]
this or that.”*

IN THE MASTER BEDROOM ARE a quilt
Willy made and romantic textiles. She
covered the headboard with a soft blue-
and-white-checked fabric.



[ABOVE] THE COLORS OF OLD PICTURES and faded gold-plated frames add a strong, warm touch to the bright white palette. A tiny abacus is another part of the décor in the master bedroom. The pretty, feminine lampshades were made by Willy. [BOTTOM RIGHT] A ROMANTIC VIGNETTE put together by Willy. [BOTTOM LEFT] THIS PINK BATHROOM was in the house when they bought it. By decorating the bathroom with a cheerful checked curtain, a mix of patterns and some fine old findings, Willy transformed it into a cozy personal room.





WILLY PAINTED ALL OF THE FURNITURE and made the quilt, lampshade and embroidery pieces in the white-and-blue guest room. She painted a subtle blue trim on the headboard.





Practical *Charm*

This dream home uses soft, feminine design that is family-friendly and functional too.

By Melissa Anderson
Photography by Troy Thies

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR DREAM HOME? FAMILY? FUNCTIONAL? FEMININE?

These words were the driving force behind this creek-side house where the homeowner had in mind “anything sweet, anything pink and anything green.” Inspired by cottage charm, femininity and casual tradition, this Minneapolis home achieves a unique balance with rustic and graphic touches. Jayme Meyer and Martha O’Hara Interiors share how they matched a sweetly specific style with the demands of a livable home for this client.

THE SUNROOM’S PORCH
CEILING contrasts with the pastel
palette for some earthy warmth.



[ABOVE] THIS OPEN FLOOR PLAN is an inviting scene with unpolished silver, worn candlesticks and organic fabrics to create that lived-in look.

• [OPPOSITE] ARTFULLY ARRANGED CABINETS draw attention to the pretty buffet poised against a neutral backdrop.

From the elegance of the crystal in the light fixtures to the pastel themes that run throughout, it is easy to see where this home gets its romantic charm. Yet family life demanded more out of the design than just dainty silks and ornate tile could provide. “The soft, delicate feeling of these rooms can make a space feel stuffy, so we added the rustic elements, which [the homeowner] loved,” Jayme, a senior interior designer with the firm, says. Durable materials that turned formality into picture-perfect practicality were a must, with the porch ceiling, casual tile and organic fabrics

Designer *Style*

Use these expert tips for a polished look in your home.

• Understand Harmony

Balancing a home requires more than taking care with colors. Think about texture and weight—match stone with soft linens, and unfinished woods with lacquered color.

• Appreciate Elegance

Flowers, ornate detail, pastel palettes, crystals and metal can all play into a larger look. Sprinkle romantic touches throughout a home to create a unified motif that will stand out from the rest of your décor.

• Home Sweet Home

Whatever look makes up your dream décor, remember that practicality is key. Carrying out a style to the letter can create an uncomfortable space, and a few statement pieces can convey more than an overwhelming composition.



THE MASTER BATH IS A VISION IN BLUSH FEMININITY, from its balloon shades and plush furniture to its masterpiece of a makeshift vanity.





like linen and cotton working together to provide a worn, vintage look.

The awareness of private versus public space was also a guiding principle of design for the home. "We balanced by adding soft yellows and vibrant pinks with lots of neutrals," Jayme says. "[The homeowner] also loved black, which is a great color to balance, as it carries a lot of weight."

While the private bath is a vision in blush, the home's kitchen and dining area were designed to create a more cohesive look. In this space the detail of the light fixtures makes the simplicity of the dark woods stand apart, while the neutral surfaces make the pastel green accents pop. The end result Martha O'Hara Interiors created is a uniquely sweet space that strikes a happy medium between the homeowner's dream and what the family needed to feel at home.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

For more on Martha O'Hara Interiors, visit oharainteriors.com

[ABOVE] THIS CLOISTERED CLOSET is a perfectly private and well-organized space. [LEFT] GRAPHIC WALLPAPER provides an elegant touch in this bathroom. Solid shades and pops of color complement the look.

TIP:

A simple way to make over a room is to strip it down to the furnishings alone and start fresh.





A NEW LOOK FOR THE *New Year*

Create an inspired makeover by thoughtfully selecting a color palette and filling rooms to the brim with unexpected accessories.

Written, photographed and styled by Melinda Graham

THE START OF A NEW YEAR ARRIVES WITH GOOD INTENTIONS AND AMBITIOUS RESOLUTIONS.

It is also the perfect time to refresh your home. Once the joy (and chaos) of the holidays has passed, the slow process of undecorating the house begins. It can be a solemn occasion for some, stripping away the jolly glitz and glitter of the festive holiday season. Looking around, everything seems rather empty. Take advantage of the stripped-down décor and think of it as an opportunity to implement an entirely new look for the new year.

This effort does not have to be a complete home renovation. Small changes can have a large impact when handled with a bit of creativity and a touch of finesse. Transform a room in your home by introducing a new color palette. No painting or rewallpapering, no new flooring or furnishings—the entire transformation can be achieved with the addition of just a few thoughtfully selected accessories peppered throughout the space.

It can be daunting to visualize a room in your home in any way other than how it has always been decorated, so the thought of redecorating with a new color palette can leave you wondering where to begin. After the holiday season is the perfect time to take on this task because a barren room filled with furnishings alone is like a blank canvas in need of the first brushstroke of color. But how do you select a new palette? The best way is to be armed with inspiration. It can be a beautiful pillow, a vintage floral greeting card or, in the case of this dining room, an antique transferware platter that's the catalyst for a dramatic room makeover.

[THIS PAGE] A MINIATURE CABINET COMPOSED OF TINY DRAWERS is a clever way to display the smallest of collected treasures. Button cards, wooden spools of thread and needle books each have a place of importance.

Surroundings



TIP:

Go “shopping” by gathering accessories from around your home that will complement the new color scheme.

Look at objects with a creative eye and push the boundaries of what is considered a home accessory.



Clearly the accessories are the embellishments that make décor come to life. Starting with a blank canvas means everything you add to the room is like a brushstroke of color. Each item is another stroke, and the goal is to paint a complete picture. For this dining room, the walls are a soft, warm neutral color; the carpet is cream and the classic lines of the furnishings have a natural golden hue. The homeowner wanted a fresh look without committing to painting the walls or buying new furniture. The transformation was achieved by changing the accessories. Since the inspiration was an exquisite transferware platter, the search for accessories in a purple palette began. The homeowner didn't need to go far; all of the decorative items collected for the room redo came from other rooms in the home.

When decorating, it is always good to look at objects with a creative eye and push the boundaries of what is considered a home accessory. This dining room is a perfect example of filling a room with unexpected treasures and mismatched collectibles. First was a layering of anchor accessories. The serving cart was filled to the brim with skeins of yarn and vintage sewing notions borrowed from the craft room; armchairs from the dining table were situated around a table in the corner to create a cozy conversation area lit by a lamp pulled from a guest bedroom. A small table was taken out of the garden to hold a large lantern from the patio, the curio was filled with mix-and-match china from the kitchen cabinets and the table was stacked high with a tiny stool and wooden toolbox from the garage.

Then it was time to finish the masterpiece. Vintage linens were draped around the room: framing the windows, layered on the tables and even as dressing on the chairs. Throw pillows and a soft knit blanket migrated from the bedrooms; woven baskets were gathered from storage closets. The *pièce de*



résistance was transplanting pastel petals into every nook and cranny. At first glance it is seemingly a collection of misfit objects, yet because the items are all tied to the original inspirational palette, the end result is beautifully eclectic and feels effortless.

As January arrives and you find yourself undecorating after the holidays, don't become a creature of habit and put everything back exactly as it was before. Just as an artist knows which brushstrokes will best create the final composition, you can follow your inner artist when decorating a stripped-down blank canvas of a room. Give your old décor new life with carefully selected accessories in a new and unexpected color palette. Consider a wash of a fresh hue like lavender. The color commitment is small and can be easily updated when the seasons change. Find your color inspiration, gather goodies from around your home and, voilà, you have a new look for the new year.

PICK A PERFECT PALETTE

Have a passion for purple? Here's a good way to integrate this popular hue into your home.

A purple palette is very feminine but has cool tones that offer alternatives to pinks. There is a large range of purples to choose from, and they are lovely complements to many other colors.

Choose more neutral shades of purple to build your base, from pale lavender to steely blue to faded gray; then look for ways to integrate small pops of a more intense tone like a vibrant violet. It may be as simple as a single flower in a vase, a pattern on a dish or a beautiful accent pillow.

Changing accessories is the least expensive and most rewarding way to refresh a room. There is no need to commit to a color by permanently changing wall colors, flooring or furnishings. In the same way you vary your wardrobe from season to season, look for ways to alter your home fashion by making some minor adjustments and adding just the right accessories.



TIP:

To develop a new color palette, look for an object or picture to use as your inspiration.

SOMETHING AS SMALL AS THIS PAINTED HYDRANGEA throw pillow can be showcased as art when properly displayed. It was once lost in the shuffle, nestled among many other pillows on a well-dressed bed. Now perched atop this beautiful hand-knit blanket, it can be properly appreciated.

For more on Melinda, visit surroundingsbymelinda.blogspot.com.



HANGING Pretty

Use this project to get organized, all while showcasing some of your favorite accessories.

Written, photographed and styled by Ayda Algin

JANUARY IS A TIME OF RENEWAL. IT IS THE PERFECT TIME TO GIVE your home a fresh look and feel for the new year. Start by packing away holiday decorations, organizing your indoor space and planning for a spring garden. Get your home organized by tackling a task in each room. You'll feel refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

To help tame clutter on your vanity or in your dressing room and give your space an extra dose of pretty, this lace jewelry holder is a project that is fun and simple to do.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Embroidery hoop (2 pieces)
- Floral fabric
- White tulle or lace
- White felt
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- Pencil
- Craft needle
- Thread



Personalize

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Cut the floral fabric and tulle so they are at least 1 inch wider than the embroidery hoop. Cut the felt to the same size as the outer radius of the smaller hoop.

2. Layer the tulle over the floral fabric and fit both over the inside smaller hoop. Place the larger hoop over all the fabric and tighten the screw on top. Pull the fabrics from the back gently, so they are snug and firm.

3. Turn the hoop over and trim any excess fabric away from the hoop edge, leaving a 1-inch seam allowance.

4. Using embroidery thread or something similar, start at the top and stitch a row of running stitches around the seam allowance. Ensure that you leave a long tail at the beginning. Once you've stitched the full circle, take the thread ends and pull them together to gather the fabric. Knot the thread in place to secure the pleats.



5. Sew the felt circle to the gathered fabric using a whipstitch and a coordinating embroidery thread.

6. Decorate with a ribbon, and attach a string or other hanger to the top of the embroidery hoop, as shown.



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Hang earrings by hooking the posts through the mesh of the tulle, or add small pins for necklaces and bracelets.



For more on Ayda, visit cafenohut.com.



Tip

Seasonal tablecloths, napkins, silverplate utensils and hollowware serving pieces are stored on the bottom shelves of my hutch. They are out of sight, but right at my fingertips.

CHANGING Seasons

When the holiday season is over and decorations are packed away, it's time to bring out seasonal pieces for Valentine's Day celebrations.

By Diane Sedo

Photography by Elise Portale



Having seasonal accent pieces at my fingertips

makes entertaining a breeze. There's no need to search through the backs of tall kitchen cupboards, closets or boxes. I rearrange the vintage hutch in my kitchen dining area three times a year, and after the holidays it's time for that change.

My pale-pink-flowered Limoges china paired with pink Depression glass works well for both Valentine's Day and Easter gatherings. The sweet details of the heart-shaped candy box, cupid vase, figurines and my dad's Valentines, written to "dear Harold," all date to a more romantic, thoughtful time.

Before the second Sunday in May, Mother's Day, it's time to celebrate Mom and prepare for tea party season. The weather is warm, a few late-blooming tulips remain and the beloved Cecile Brunner roses are in full glory. It's time to enjoy the outdoors again and set damask-covered tables with teapots sprinkled with tiny violets, Limoges cups and saucers, chintz sugar bowls and milk jugs and all the tea accoutrements used for the ceremony of tea. I can almost feel my great-grandmother's hand on the teapot.

By summer's end I'm ready for the cooler temperatures of autumn. It's time to assemble my Furnivals Quail 1913 brown transferware china, my traditional dishes for both Thanksgiving and Christmas family dinners. Like the perfect piece of jewelry for an outfit, my table would not be complete without my grandmother's vintage turkey platter and my Westmoreland milk-glass sleigh.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

Contributing editor Diane Sedo is co-author of *Taking Tea with Alice* (1997 Warner Books, 2007 Benjamin Press) and is a certified instructor of Dorothea Johnson's Tea & Etiquette program (Elmwood Inn Fine Teas). Follow her two Facebook pages: Sentimental Celebrations, and Tea Cups and Cupcakes.

LAYERED FOR *warmth*

By Staci Dumoski

Ten tips for winter décor from author and blogger Melissa Michaels.



CREATING A BEAUTIFUL, LIVABLE HOME IS AN ONGOING PROCESS,

a journey Melissa Michaels has shared with fans of her popular blog The Inspired Room (theinspiredroom.net) since 2007. Now she brings her wealth of experience and ideas to readers in a new book, *The Inspired Room: Simple Ideas to Love the Home You Have*.

With the goal of creating a relaxing retreat, Michaels provides a manual of decorating advice anyone can use. Among the many simple tricks for lighting, color and style you'll find ways to transform your home not only room by room but also season by season.

We asked Michaels' advice for adding warmth to a home during the chilly winter months. "Layers," she told us, and shared her top 10 ideas for layering on warmth in the winter.

1. Layers of winter linens on the table
2. Fur and knit pillows on the sofa
3. Extra-cozy throws and blankets on chairs and shelves
4. Textures like baskets and natural winter décor like sticks and pinecones
5. Curtains on windows and interior doors
6. Warm area rugs in living spaces
7. Extra layers of blankets on beds
8. Winter books in stacks by the fireplace and beds
9. Groupings of candles on mantels, dressers and console tables
10. Additional table lamps for warm mood lighting



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Shopping Guide

Dream Bed

pages 24–28

Bed linens: Bella Notte Linens, visit bellanottelinens.com.

Blue glass spray bottle, distilled water, lavender essential oil: Sprouts, visit sprouts.com.

Claremont Healing House, (909) 233-9191 or claremonthealinghouse.com.

Flowers: Fantasy Floral Designs, visit fantasyfloraldesigns.com.

Funnel, witch hazel: Target, visit target.com.

Winter Warm-Up

pages 30–33

Faux fur throw: Home Goods, visit homegoods.com.

Ruffled throw: Shabbyfufu, visit shabbyfufu.com.

Sweater throw: Pottery Barn, visit potterybarn.com.

Teal throw: Target, visit target.com.

Treasure Box

pages 40–53

Paints: Music room, living room, dining room, kitchen: Geneva Swan Gray; Girls' room: Persian Seed Pearl; Master bedroom: Sunlit White. Color-Place by Walmart, visit walmart.com.

Floral pillow fabric: Kaufmann "Mia" in Citrine, visit fabricguru.com.

Music room overdyed rug: Rugs USA, visit rugsusa.com.

Music room chandelier: Overstock, visit overstock.com.

Indian saris: Sanskriti Vintage, visit ebay.com.

Living room overdyed rug and jute rug: Overstock, visit overstock.com.

Yellow leaf pillows: Walmart, visit walmart.com.

Dining room bench: World Market, visit worldmarket.com.

Kitchen rug: Rugs USA, rugsusa.com.

Orange/pink towel: World Market, visit worldmarket.com.

Wire baskets, pink towels/dish cloths: Walmart, visit walmart.com.

Dinnerware: Mikasa "Italian Countryside," visit mikasa.com; Wedgwood "Queen's Plain/Shape," visit wedgwood.com.

Girls' room chandelier: Overstock, visit overstock.com.

Floral quilt: Overstock, visit overstock.com.

Peony canvases: Knight's Store, visit knightssstore.etsy.com.

Practical Charm

pages 78–83

Arched mirror: Uttermost, (800) 678-5486 or uttermost.com.

Cabinets: Refined LLC, (612) 961-9101 or refinedllc.com.

Chairs: Drexel Heritage, visit drexelheritage.com.



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Fabric: Fabricut, (800) 999-8200 or fabricut.com.

Light fixtures: Shades of Light, (800) 262-6612 or shadesoflight.com.

Ottoman: 15 C Eden by Wesley Hall, (828) 324-7466 or wesleyhall.com.

Paint: Benjamin Moore, (855) 724-6802 or benjaminmoore.com.

Side table: Guild Master, (800) 269-9907 or guildmaster.com.

Wallpaper: Manuel Canovas, (212) 647-6900 or cowtan.com.

Ta Da

pages 92–93

Vintage valentines and teacups: Tea Leaf Cottage, call (714) 771-7752.

Coming Next Month

MELANIE G. PHOTOGRAPHY



RIKKI SNYDER

ISN'T IT ROMANTIC?

We celebrate Valentine's Day in our next issue with the annual Romantics feature, a showcase of artists, designers and writers whose lives and work epitomize romance. The February issue will also include tips on throwing a Valentine's Day party for your girlfriends, and tours of vibrant, charming homes for an inspirational spark this winter.

Romantic HOMES

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714-200-1959

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Favorites

WENDY ESTES,

Layla Grayce

OWNED AND CURATED BY WENDY ESTES, Layla Grayce features a collection of home décor and gifts that celebrate relaxed, easy living with sophistication. "We look for pieces with a story, ageless antique reproductions, charming coastal classics and one-of-a-kind vintage treasures that stand the test of time," Wendy says. Never mainstream but always functional, Layla Grayce products are designed for longevity, everyday heirlooms that can be passed on to future generations, each carefully selected based on premium quality and expert craftsmanship. Here are a few of Wendy's favorites treasures available at laylagrayce.com.



THE REDFORD HOUSE MILLA SIDE TABLE is not only perfect to store your favorite goods, but also to display them in whatever creative way you please. Custom finishes add that personalized luxury that I love.



A MUST-HAVE, THIS WORLD'S AWAY LINCOLN MARBLE TRAY will look even better with perfectly arranged cheeses, spreads and crackers at your next holiday party.



IN THE BEDROOM, LIVING ROOM OR ANYWHERE, the beachy coolness of Pine Cone Hill's Laundered Linen White Decorative Pillow can't be denied.



CUDDLING UP TO THIS SURYA TRESTLE THROW BLANKET IS A TOTAL DREAM. The frayed fringe and muted shades of slate and beige offer a vintage, handmade feel that I can't resist in any room of the home.

THE SHORT STATURE OF THIS AIDAN GRAY BENCH makes it ideal for just about anywhere in the house. There are so many facets that make this piece intriguing, from the weathering to the nailheads.



THIS TRAY'S BOLD PHRASING REMINDS YOU THAT you're at the top of your game, the cream of the crop, and you only deserve the best.



FROM THE TEXTURED GOLD-LEAF FINISH to the alternating ornate and woven striped shade, I adore the elegance of the Viola lamp. Two would be amazing bedside.

IN MY MIND, VIBRANT FLORALS DON'T GO OUT OF STYLE; they offer the perfect feminine twist. This painting from Oopsy Daisy can brighten up just about any space.



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